

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN DESIRE FOR VISIBLE IMPACT IN COLLABORATIVE

JWG PROJECTS

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN BY EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS OVER THE PACE OF US COLLABORATIVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND THE NEED FOR "VISIBLE" IMPACT. THE LATEST COMMENT WAS DURING THE RECENT SYMPOSIUM/WORKSHOP ON S AND T INFO. (REPORTED SEPTTEL).

2. DURING THE MEETING, CAIRO UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ABU TALEB, IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS, EXPRESSED VIEW THAT US/EGYPTIAN INTERESTS COULD BENEFIT FROM GREATER IDENTIFICATION OF US WITH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGHER VICIBILITY AND MORE DIRECT PUBLIC IMPACT. HE FELT THAT THE VISIBILITY TO PUBLIC OF US EGYPT S AND T COOPERATION AND ALSO US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WAS LOW. IN HIS VIEW USSR ASSOCIATION WITH THE HIGH DAM AND BENEFITS THEREFROM HAS LASTING PUBLIC IMPACT, WHILE, FOR EXAMPLE, US FOOD ASSISTANCE DOES NOT, BECAUSE "PEOPLE DO NOT REMEMBER WHAT THEY ATE LAST WEEK". EDUCATION MINISTER HELMI LATER MADE RELATED POINT, STRESSING NEED TO TURN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM

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PLANNING INTO VISIBLE IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES FOR

EGYPTIAN PUBLIC. A SIMILAR THEME WAS SOUNDED BY COORDINATOR OF US ASSISTANCE AHMAD EFFAT DURING FEBRUARY JWGTRD MEETING.

3. IT WAS CONCEDED, DURING THESE CONVERSATIONS THAT US ASSISTANCE, BOTH DIRECT AND THROUGH COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS WAS SUBSTANTIAL, GROWING, AND BENEFICIAL. HOWEVER, THE NEED IS PERCEIVED FOR BETTER PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION OF BENEFITS FLOWING FROM US COOPERATION.

4. COMMENT - THE EXPRESSED VIEWS REFLECT NOT ONLY A DESIRE FOR BETTER PUBLICITY FOR US CONTRIBUTIONS BUT, GIVEN THEIR JOINT WORKING GROUP CONTEXT, SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE JWG'S HAVE NOT, AFTER DEFINITION OF NEEDS, TAPPED LARGER RESOURCES FOR "VISIBLE AND WIDER BENEFITS". THIS VIEW OVERLOOKS THE FACT THAT, BECAUSE OF POOR ORGANIZATION, THERE IS A SIZEABLE EGYPTIAN CONTRIBUTION TO SLOWED IMPLEMENTATION. WHERE THE EGYPTIAN INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN ENERGETIC AND/OR WELL DEFINED AND EXECUTED AS FOR EXAMPLE IN THE CASES OF THE REMOTE SENSING PROJECT, JWGTRD BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND ULTRANSONIC WORKSHOPS AT CAIRO UNIVERSITY, AND THE JWG MED. COOP. FDA INSTRUMENTATION AND LAB COURSE, BOTH TANGIBLE BENEFIT AND PUBLIC IMPACT HAVE, WITHIN SUBJECT MATTER LIMITATIONS, OCCURRED. WE HAVE MADE THESE POINTS IN CONVERSATIONS. ADDITIONALLY WE KNOW THAT USAID FOOD PROGRAM IS PUBLICALLY KNOWN, DOWN TO SMALL BAKERY LEVEL AND TO CUSTOMERS. NONE-THE-LESS, THE CONCERN WITH IMPACT, AND IMPROVED SERVICES AS A RESULT OF US S AND T COOP. IS REAL AND SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. EILTS

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